

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ADANA 000134

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINS](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [IZ](#) [TU](#) [ADANA](#)

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY, OCTOBER 2-4, 2004

11. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for October 02-04, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

12. MILLIYET/ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: Iran launched a military operation against PKK/Kongra Gel militants, in coordination with Ankara. The operation targeted Partiya Jiyana Azadiya Kurdistan's (PJAK-Free Living Party of Kurdistan) camps which were founded by the PKK in an effort to organize Kurds in Iran and Syria. Syria had already surrendered many PKK militants to Turkish authorities prior to this operation by Iran against PJAK.

13. ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The Diyarbakir HRA Chapter will file charges with the Siirt Public Prosecutor against GOT forces who dragged Fatma Idem, an HPG guerilla killed in Siirt on September 6, behind their armored personnel carrier.

14. SABAH: The New York Times commented in an article that PKK/Kongra Gel's resuming terrorist attacks in Turkey would damage Kurds' recent economic and cultural gains. The paper wrote that Kurds in the region were cautious about the organization and questioned the PKK/Kongra Gel's tactics, timing and targets, and attributed what has been going on to Abdullah Ocalan.

15. YENI SAFAK/GOZCU: A group of PKK/Kongra Gel militants opened fire on GOT forces on patrol near Ergin village of Lice, Diyarbakir province, wounding three soldiers.

16. YENI SAFAK/GOZCU/BOLGE: Fahri Yuce opened fire on inmates' families who were gathered at the Diyarbakir Municipality's theater hall. Four persons were wounded. The crowd tried to detain the assailant, who also ended up being wounded with his own weapon.

17. MILLI GAZETE: In Batman province, Sason Sub-governor Hayati Tasdan announced that there were 85 schools and 9,500 students in his district, and that schools in 30 villages were closed due to a lack of teachers. Tasdan said his district had only 220 teachers instead of 550. Twenty-nine village headmen from Sason's villages sent faxes to the National Education Ministry, requesting that teachers be appointed to their villages.

18. MILLIYET/ZAMAN/HURRIYET/RADIKAL: Ekrem Temes, a nine-year-old assisting his family with trash collecting in Yuksekova, Hakkari province, found a 2.5 kilogram C-4 explosive which had been placed 100 meters from the Sub-governor's office. After showing the time bomb, which he thought was a clock, to his older brother, he took the parcel to the police who detonated it. No damages or casualties were reported.

19. MILLIYET/SABAH/HURRIYET/EVRENSEL/CUMHURİYET/Y ENI SAFAK: Former Batman Governor Salih Sarman has been imprisoned in Ankara for receiving a Mercedes in exchange for awarding a construction contract for an indoor car park complex in Batman. The court banned Sarman from public service permanently. Sarman was also accused of forming special units without authorization and purchasing weapons, some of which were reported missing, for the units under the pretext of combating the PKK during his tenure in Batman.

110. SABAH/TERCUMAN/HURRIYET/TURKIYE/YENI SAFAK/VAKIT: Teams from the Van Security Directorate seized 47 kilos of C-4 explosives, 169 offensive hand-grenades, and 3,103 Kalashnikov bullets in a truck, which reportedly belonged to the PKK/Kongra Gel. An unidentified truck driver was also detained.

111. SABAH/ZAMAN/HURRIYET/TURKIYE/EVRENSEL: GOT forces launched an operation in the Kutuderesi region of Tunceli. As a result of ensuing clashes one soldier was killed and three others were wounded. The operations in the region are still continuing.

112. ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: DEHAP National Chairman Tuncer Bakirhan and thousands of people attended the Viransehir Cultural and Art Festival in Sanliurfa province. Bakirhan said military operations were conducted against peace, democracy and brotherhood, and added that the Justice and Development Party (AKP) pretended as though the Kurdish problem did not exist. Bakirhan said Turkey could not become a member of the EU unless it solved the Kurdish and poverty issues. The crowd displayed Abdullah Ocalan posters and chanted pro-Ocalan slogans while they condemned Osman Ocalan and his followers for separating from the PKK/Kongra Gel.

13. ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The Swedish Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds will visit Ankara on October 5. She will visit Diyarbakir to meet with the Women Center (KAMER) to get information about honor killings, as well as with other NGO officials, after concluding talks with her Turkish counterparts in Ankara. She is expected to invite leaders of women NGOs in the region to the October 6-7 International Women Conference in Stockholm.

14. ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM: The Private Adana Kurdish Language School started classes with 15 students. The students will attend the courses for three months and be given a certificate after the completion of the course.

15. ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM/EVRENSEL: In Van province, Esenyamac villagers who have been smuggling oil from Iran were confronted by soldiers at the Iranian border who asked them to halt. They ran away, leaving 21 horses unattended. The villagers claimed later that the soldiers killed 10 of the horses that had been used in smuggling.

16. ULKEDE OZGUR GUNDEM/EVRENSEL: The Istanbul and Siirt "Human Shield Initiative" members, who were harassed and prevented by GOT forces from going to Cirav Mountain where military operations are being conducted, set off for the same location again. Approximately 500 persons, who gathered in front of the DEHAP Provincial Office in Siirt, saw them off with "Long Live Peace; We Don't Want to Kill or To Be Killed" slogans. Necdet Ulker, a "Human Shield Initiative" member from Istanbul said that GOT forces tried to intimidate them by giving them a fine, damaging their cars with metal pieces, and seizing the license of the restaurant they dined at.

17. EVRENSEL: The Diyarbakir Bar Association members distributed Turkish/Kurdish handouts they had prepared as part of the "Justice for Everybody Project." The Project's General Coordinator Attorney Cihan Aydin said the "Justice for Everybody Project," initiated in February 2004, was also supported by the European Commission.

18. EVRENSEL: Three thousand two hundred students from 60 villages of Kiziltepe, Mardin province, are unable to attend their schools due to lack of transportation. Students' parents applied to the Kiziltepe Teachers Union in order to find a solution. The Kiziltepe National Education Director Mehmet Aksoy said the transportation of the students was put to tender before the academic year started two weeks ago, but the company that was awarded the bid terminated the contract on the grounds that it could not provide regular transportation for 3,200 students.

19. HURRIYET/TURKIYE: During the GOT forces' land operations that was supported by air strikes against PKK/Kongra Gel holdouts in the Kutuderesi region of Tunceli yesterday, one militant was killed and some materials were seized. One of the sergeants who had been seriously wounded in previous clashes also died.

20. TURKIYE: Teams from the Diyarbakir Provincial Jandarma Command seized 51.650 kilograms of material used in making hash in Kusluk village of Silvan, Diyarbakir province. Five persons, including the Gormez village headman, were arrested for having connections with drugs.

21. HURRIYET: The volume of transportation to Iraq from the Cilvegozu, Hatay province, border gate with Syria increased after the Transportation Minister announced that it was safer to transit goods to Iraq through Syria. Turkish truck drivers are often being attacked and have also been taken hostage by insurgents in Iraq.

22. MILLIYET: In Osmaniye province, as a result of a fight that broke out between the former DYP Kirmikli Mayor Erdal Unlu and the Current CHP Mayor Ali Murtaza Dogan, both former Mayor Unlu as well as Mayor Dogan's father were killed, and two others were wounded.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

23. CUKUROVA HURRIYET/ZAMAN: The Second Cukurova Industry and Trade Fair expected to enliven Adana's economy was opened with a ceremony attended by the Minister of Industry and Trade. The fair will be open until October 10. One hundred thousand people visited the fair in two days. Transportation to the fairground is provided free of charge by public buses.

ALLISON